

# Somewhere in the U.S.A. (practical exercise)

**USING THE LIST BELOW, RANK THE  
CHARACTERS FROM 1 TO 5, IN ORDER  
OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
DEATH OF THE WIFE. "1" BEING THE  
MOST RESPONSIBLE & "5" BEING THE  
LEAST.**

**GOVERNOR**

**WIFE**

**LOVER**

**OWNER**

**FRIEND**

# SYSTEM / VICTIM FOCUS

# Overview

- Define Victim Focus
- Process of Blaming the Victim
- Factors that Promote Victim Focus
- Define System Focus
- Methods to Prevent Victim Focus

# Victim Focus

**A reactive problem-solving approach  
which narrowly defines social  
problems in terms of the victims**

# Victim Focus

- Reactive Problem-Solving
- Sees the victim as the cause
- Focuses on “Fixing” the victim
- Narrow approach to problem solving

# Steps in Blaming the Victim

- Identify a Social Problem
- Study those affected & how they are different
- Define differences as the cause
- Assign someone to correct the differences

# Social Factors that Promote Victim Focus

- Unequal Status
- Distortions of Reality
- Acceptance of Victimization

# System Focus Approach

- A Proactive Problem-Solving
- Approach which broadly defines
- Social problems as being part of, or caused by, System, Organization, Society, or Community
- Evaluates how system can be improved to prevent future problems

# Why System Focus is not Commonly Used

- Not a Quick Fix
- Victim Desires Conformity
- Self-Perpetuating Process

# Methods to Prevent Victim Focus

- Dialogue
- Assessment & Feedback

# Summary

- Defined Victim Focus
- Discussed Process of Blaming the Victim
- Identified Factors that Promote Victim Focus
- Defined System Focus
- Discussed Methods to Prevent Victim Focus

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make.”

Marion W. Edelman